



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

**Wednesday, November 19, 2014**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-5356)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Present: Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby,  
Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Donald S.  
Andrews and Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa and Jenny Kimbell (14-5358)

Call to Order. (14-5260)

**Vice Chairperson Bacio called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

**Vice Chairperson Bacio led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a  
moment of silence.**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER**

1. Approval of the November 12, 2014 Minutes. (14-5261)

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by  
Commissioner Barbara Bigby and unanimously carried, this item was  
approved.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

**II. REPORTS**

2. Department Representative Reports for November 19, 2014:

Department of Auditor-Controller (AC)

- Monthly Report

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

- Monthly Report

Internal Services Department (ISD)

- Monthly Report

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

- Monthly Report

Probation Department (PD)

- Monthly Report

Sheriff Department

- Monthly Report (14-5262)

**Auditor Controller (AC)**

**Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report for the month of October 2014:**

**29 Total calls**

- 16 Youth callers
- 13 Adult callers

**36 calls related to Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information**

- 2 DCFS - Social Worker
- 3 DCFS Ombudsman
- 1 Child Protection hotline
- 1 Community Care Licensing
- 10 Group Home Providers
- 3 Probation Ombudsman
- 2 State Ombudsman
- 13 General Information
- 1 DCFS - Out of Home Care Management

**7 Personal Rights**

- 2 Clothing (Rosemary's)
- 1 Food (Penny Lane)
- 1 Health/Med, Dental, Psych Care (Dream Home Care)

- 1 Respect (Maryvale)
- 2 School/Community/Religious Services (Florence Crittenton)

**1 Personal**

- Fear, Threats, Intimidation, Isolation (Murrell's)

**Other**

- 2 Placement (Mary's Shelter, Penny Lane)
- 1 Independent Living Program (David & Margaret)
- 1 Room Search (Florence Crittenton)
- 1 Personal Belongings/Hygiene Products (Penny Lane)

**Visits/Outreach**

- Luvlee's Residential Care dba New Dawn – 2 sites
- Dream Home Care – 3 sites
- LeRoy Haynes Center – (Joint visit with Probation Ombudsman)

Commissioner Burton expressed concern regarding the Community Youth Sports and Arts Foundation and how the children are being treated since the passing of the owner. This facility has been known to operate like a military instead of like a home. Commissioner Grills requested that the Probation Ombudsman be invited to the next SBC meeting.

**Department of Mental Health (DMH)**

Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, reported that DMH has completed the last cycle of site visits to the agencies with group homes. DMH focuses on the terms of the contracts for mental health services and how group homes are documenting and charting the services that they provide to children. No major concerns were discovered and DMH is in the process of producing the report from their findings. She also reported that DMH visited McKinney Group Home and found that they shared the same concerns that were reported by DCFS.

Commissioner Grills inquired if DMH reviews the Needs and Services Plans (NSP) due to the many anomalies that are found during her visits. She also stated that the plans will guide DMH in the full spectrum of service.

Ms. Trachtenberg stated that DMH reviews the treatment plan called the "clinical loop" that specifies the children's treatment goals and

objectives. The plan also contains all the elements and acts as a reference point to verify what is reflected in their treatment.

Ms. Trachtenberg also answered questions posed by the Commission.

**Internal Services Department (ISD)**

There was no representative present.

**Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**

Ms. Korliss Robinson, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the period of October 2014 there were a total of 908 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 26 referrals in the following categories:

- 1 Emotional abuse
- 8 General neglect
- 13 Physical abuse
- 4 Sexual abuse

During the same reporting period, all referrals were closed with the following result:

- 8 Evaluated out
- 10 Inconclusive
- 8 Unfounded

Ms. Robinson further reported that McKinley Children's Center has been placed on a "do not use" status and Pennacle Foundation terminated their contract with DCFS.

Commissioner Grills inquired if DCFS are aware of the new policies that are in place regarding RCL levels and group home ratings, the effect it will cause and how DCFS will handle the situation. She also reported that group home providers are concerned about group home closures in the Second District and if DCFS can give a presentation to SBC on the increase of Second District closures and what DCFS is doing to help with placement of Second District children being placed further away from their families.

Commissioner Andrews also expressed his concern with the closure of many group homes across Los Angeles County.

**Probation Department (PD)**

**Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the monthly status report of group home AWOLs for the month of October 2014 as follows:**

**There were 163 AWOLs**

- **48 Youth involved**
- **54 Remain AWOL**
- **28 Returned to group homes**
- **30 Youth AWOLed more than once**
- **30 Placed in Juvenile Hall**
- **1 Camp Community Placement**
- **2 Home**

**During the same period, Ms. Pease also reported on the number of investigations as follows:**

**8 Child abuse**

- **6 unfounded, 1 inconclusive, 1 pending**

**6 Group home investigations**

- **4 unfounded, 2 pending, 8 follow-ups, 3 substantiated, 3 no findings, 2 unfounded**

**Ms. Pease further provided the Commission with a detailed report of the status on group home monitoring, investigations and statistical findings regarding probation youth.**

**Sheriff Department**

**Lieutenant Michael Burse introduced himself as the Supervisor in charge of the High Observation Mental Health housing unit that consists of 3 floors of Tower one. A discussion ensued and Lieutenant Burse answered questions posed by the Commission.**

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 3. Chairperson's Report on various items for November 19, 2014. (14-5263)**

**Vice Chairperson Bacio informed the Commissioners that reservations**

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have been made at the San Antonio Winery and the Holiday Celebration is set for December 12, 2014 following the Commission meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report on various items for November 19, 2014. (14-5265)

**Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$332.15.**

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for November 19, 2014. (14-5268)

**Twila Kerr, Chief, Commission Services, presented a packet and discussed questions posed by the Audit Committee regarding the Commission Sunset Review and general operations of the Commission.**

**Staff also reported that Commission for Women (CW) has requested staff to provide the dates that SBC Commissioners will be visiting the jails/lockups so that they can assign some of the CW Commissioner's to go on some of the inspections with them. They also requested the dates of the SBC's monthly Business meetings.**

**Staff further reminded the Commission that the November 26, 2014 meeting is cancelled due to the Thanksgiving holiday.**

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on November 19, 2014. (14-5269)

**There was no report presented.**

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from November 13, 2014 to November 18, 2014. (14-5270)

**During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:**

**Commissioner Andrews visited:**

- **West Hollywood Sheriff Station (San Vicente Bl., West Hollywood, CA) on November 13, 2014.**

**Commissioners Bigby and Andrews visited:**

- **Children Are Our Future (Lemarsh Street, Northridge, CA) on November 18, 2014 and reported, although the home was in satisfactory condition, the following items need correcting:**
  - **Washer and dryer dirty**
  - **Need new freezer**
  - **Carbon monoxide detectors needed**

- Bedrooms 1 and 2 need new mattresses
- Toilet, shower and tub need repair
- Dryer vent in garage not safe
- Need new oven
- Needs and Service Plans incomplete
- Emergency kit expired

Commissioner Andrews submitted a copy of the report to the department

Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Bigby visited:

- San Dimas Sheriff Station (Walnut Ave., San Dimas, CA) on November 13, 2014.

Commissioner Grills visited:

- Dangerfield Group Home (81st Street, Los Angeles, CA) on November 17, 2014 and reported that this was a follow-up visit to check the staff files and all were in compliance.

During the reporting period, the follow group homes were visited, but not inspected:

Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Children's Home of Southern California (Runneymede Street, Van Nuys, CA) on November 17, 2014 and reported that no one was home.

Commissioner Burton re-visited

- Fred Jefferson Memorial homes (152nd Street, Compton, CA) on November 18, 2014 and reported that no one was home.

### **III. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Matters Not Posted**

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-5271)

**There were no matters presented for a future agenda.**

#### **Public Comment**

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-5272)

**There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.**

**Adjournment**

- 10.** Adjournment for the meeting of November 19, 2014. (14-5273)

**There being no further business, Vice Chairperson Bacio adjourned the meeting of November 19, 2014 at 1:03 p.m.**

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